DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 209 970 HE 014 405

TITLE Residence and Migration of College Students. Fall 1979.
INSTITUTION Virginia State Council of Higher Education, Richmond.
PUB DATE Jun 81
NOTE 19p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *College Bound Students; College Freshmen; College Students; *Declining Enrollment; *Enrollment Trends; Full Time Students; Higher Education; In State Students; Migration; *Out of State Students; *Student Mobility; Student Recruitment
IDENTIFIERS *Virginia

ABSTRACT

The migration of students into and out of Virginia in the fall of 1979 was examined for first-time, full-time students enrolled as undergraduate (freshmen or transfers), first-professional, graduate, or unclassified. Overall, Virginia ranks eighth in the United States in terms of students migrating into the state. It is expected that between 1980 and 1985, Virginia's 18 to 21-year-old population will decrease by over 52,000 (12 percent) and that the number of public high school graduates will decrease by 11,000 (16 percent). The decline will affect the first-time freshmen enrollment, which in Virginia is 80 percent in-state students. The anticipated decline of 18-year-olds in Virginia is modest compared to the expected decline in states drawing large numbers of Virginia students. Out-of-state institutions operating in Virginia continue to enroll significant numbers of students (especially Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania), although several states are conducting recruitment programs to keep high school graduates in their home state institutions. In the fall of 1979, Virginia experienced a net in-migration of new students. If this trend continues, higher education in Virginia can expect to maintain enrollment levels at or better than national norms. It is suggested that if out-of-state student numbers decline, Virginia should begin a program designed to reduce the number of high school graduates who leave the Commonwealth for higher education. (CC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED209970

Commonwealth of Virginia

Residence and Migration of College Students

Fall 1979

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

HE 014 405

Preface

Since 1963 the federal government, through the National Center for Education Statistics, has been collecting data on the residence and migration of college students. While states can readily determine the number and source of students entering institutions from within the state, it is difficult to identify the migration patterns of state residents without conducting a national survey. The most recent survey was done in the fall of 1979 as part of the Higher Education General Information Survey. Each institution of higher education was asked to report the enrollment of first-time students by the state in which they resided when first admitted. It is expected that data of this kind will be collected every two years.

The 1979 survey of residence and migration was the first collection since the fall of 1975 and was significantly different from the earlier survey. In 1975 data were collected for all students enrolled in an institution while the 1979 survey collected information for only first-time enrollees. It is, therefore, difficult to compare data collected in 1979 with those from 1975.

This report will discuss the migration of students into and out of Virginia in the fall of 1979. It is important to note

that student migration is not limited to the physical movement of an individual out of the geographical bounds of the Commonwealth, but also includes students attending out-of-state institutions operating within Virginia. Whether a student attends an out-of-state institution by remaining in Virginia or travels to another state is important, but cannot be determined from the data available. For purposes of this analysis, a student is considered an out-migrant in either case. Out-of-state Institutions Operating in Virginia, 1979-80, Staff Technical Report 80-18, June, 1981, presents a detailed analysis of these institutions and their enrollments.

For purposes of this study, first-time students include all students enrolled at an institution of higher education at each of the following levels: undergraduate (freshmen or transfers), first professional, graduate or unclassified. Throughout the report all references to students should be interpreted as first-time enrollees only unless otherwise noted.

I. Introduction

In Fall, 1979, 106,116 first-time students were enrolled in institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Of this number 82 percent were domiciliary residents of Virginia and the remainder, 19,351, attended Virginia institutions from all fifty states and the District of Columbia, outlying areas and foreign countries. At the same time, 16,785 Virginia residents attended institutions of higher education outside the Commonwealth. Virginia was able to attract 84 percent of its residents to institutions within the state.

In terms of new student enrollments, Virginia was a net importer of 2,566 students in the fall of 1979. The 1975 study indicated that Virginia was a net exporter of students. Even though the 1975 study included all enrolled students and was conducted differently, it is important to recognize that Virginia is today a net importer of new students.

More Virginia residents attended colleges and universities in the District of Columbia (3,232) than any other state or region, followed by North Carolina (2,579) and California (1,140). As might be expected, the areas bordering Virginia (District of Columbia, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina) accounted for over 51 percent of the out-migration. In

fact, Virginia residents contributed significantly to in-migration patterns of several of these states. In the District of Columbia the 3,232 Virginia residents accounted for over 18 percent of total in-migration. North Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia each received more than 10 percent of their in-migration from Virginia.

Virginia attracted students primarily from the northeastern part of the U.S. — Maryland (2,222), New York (2,075), New Jersey (1,760), Pennsylvania (1,717), and North Carolina (1,071). Even though only 582 students left the District of Columbia to attend institutions in Virginia, this amounted to nearly 15 percent of the District's out-migration. North Carolina and West Virginia each sent 14 percent of their students to Virginia, followed by Maryland with nearly 13 percent. Of the northeastern states, six percent of the Pennsylvanians and almost four percent of New York and New Jersey students chose colleges and universities in Virginia.

Over all, Virginia ranked eighth in the nation behind California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, and the District of Columbia in terms of the number of students migrating into the state. When out-migration is considered, Virginia was one of 36 states which had a net import of students and ranked 22nd in the nation in net migration.

II. First-Time Freshmen

In the fall of 1979 a total of 39,260 Virginia residents enrolled in colleges and universities. Of that number 80 percent, or 31,474, attended institutions located in the Commonwealth and 7,786 left the state. In addition, 8,934 students left their home states to attend one of Virginia's public or private institutions. This represents a net in-migration of 1,148 first-time freshmen students.

The largest number of freshmen entering the state came from Maryland (1,286) followed by New Jersey (1,253), New York (1,102), and Pennsylvania (1,004). Nearly 49 percent of these students enrolled in public institutions. Of the remainder, 2,572 attended religiously-affiliated private institutions. Doctoral-granting institutions within Virginia attracted 2,436 students or 29 percent of the out-of-state enrollment. Other four year institutions enrolled the majority of out-of-state students, 5,518 (65 percent). As might be expected, only 490 (6 percent) of these students attended two year colleges.

While some Virginia residents were attracted to institutions in the northeast, the southeast saw the greatest out-migration from Virginia. North Carolina was by far the favorite location for Virginians, attracting nearly 24 percent (1,831) of the out-

migration of first-time freshmen. Neighboring states also received a large portion of the out-migration: Tennessee (568), the District of Columbia (469), West Virginia (438) and Maryland (383). A significant number of Virginia students attended schools in Florida (376), Pennsylvania (342), California (288), South Carolina (287), Massachusetts (229), New York (227), Texas (214), Georgia (611) and Ohio (207). A large number of Virginians attended U.S. Service Schools (196) including: Naval Academy (67), Air Force Academy (60) and Military Academy (59). Almost 57 percent of the 7,786 out-migrants enrolled in private colleges and universities. Nearly one-half of these attended religious affiliated institutions.

Almost 16 percent (1,243) of the Virginia out-migrants left to attend two-year institutions and 40 percent attended doctoral-granting institutions. Of the top six institutions enrolling Virginia residents, three are located in North Carolina -- Elon College (234), Chowan College (168) and East Carolina University (131). The other three institutions are located in areas bordering Virginia -- East Tennessee State University (164), Howard University in the District of Columbia (157) and Shepard College in West Virginia (153). The top 100 institutions enrolling Virginia students included: Duke University (70), Princeton University (27), Vanderbilt University (23), Carnegie-Mellon University (22), Yale University (22) and Northwestern University (22). In the second one-hundred were: Harvard University (16), Stanford University (12) and the University of

Chicago (6).

Golden Gate University, with a main campus in California, ranked seventh, enrolling 89 first-time freshmen Virginia residents. During 1979-80, Golden Gate University was authorized to operate as an out-of-state institution in Virginia. Although it is not possible to determine, through this report, the campus these students actually attended, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the Virginia enrollment reported by Golden Gate University was at sites within the Commonwealth.

III. First-Time Transfers

In the fall of 1979, 2,982 Virginia residents transferred to colleges and universities outside of the Commonwealth while 2,220 students from other states transferred to one of Virginia's institutions. Unlike first-time freshmen, Virginia was a net exporter (-762) of first-time transfer students. Nearly 11,300 Virginia residents transferred to other institutions of higher education with 74 percent transferring to in-state institutions.

Of the transfer students leaving Virginia, over 14 percent (424) transferred to North Carolina and over 13 percent (396) to institutions in the District of Columbia. Other states receiving significant numbers of Virginia residents included: California (245), Massachusetts (233), Tennessee (202), Florida (196), West Virginia (114) and Texas (110). Public colleges and universities accepted the greatest number of Virginia transfer students -- 55 percent (1,634). Private institutions having a religious-affiliation attracted 593 (20 percent) of the transfers. Only 443 (15 percent) of the students chose to attend two-year colleges while 51 percent (1,511) attended doctoral-granting institutions.

As was seen in freshmen migration, a fairly high number of transfer students enrolled in courses offerred by Golden Gate

University. This institution ranked fifth in first-time transfer enrollment, enrolling 84 Virginia residents Again, it is likely that these students did not reside on the California campus. George Washington University in the District of Columbia led the list of institutions enrolling Virginia residents with 147, followed by American University, also located in the District of Columbia, with 130, East Tennessee State University with 97, and the University of Maryland, College Park Campus, with 88. It is possible that all of these institutions attracted commuting transfers or transfers who took their courses in Virginia.

More Maryland residents (327) transferred to Virginia colleges and universities than residents of any other state. Residents of New York were a close second with 297 students migrating to Virginia. Pennsylvania (181), New Jersey (180), North Carolina (134) and Florida (105) sent a large number of students to Virginia. The majority (71 percent) of the out-of-state first-time transfer students attended one of Virginia's state-supported institutions. Nearly 400 (20 percent) transferred to religiously-affiliated private colleges.

IV. First-Time First Professional

Of the 2,930 Virginia residents enrolled for the first time in first professional programs, 71 percent (2,067) attended a public or private institution within the Commonwealth. The in-migration of 847 students nearly offset the out-migration, resulting in a net export of only 16 students. Almost 14 percent (116) of the in-migration came from Maryland residents. Of these students, 76 attended George Mason University. A total of 97 New Yorkers entered first professional programs in Virginia.

A large number of Virginia residents (298) crossed the northern border to the District of Columbia to enroll in first professional programs. North Carolina, second to the District of Columbia, attracted 68 Virginians. As the migration to the District of Columbia would suggest, private institutions enrolled 87 percent (759) of these students. It is not surprising, therefore, that of the top seven institutions enrolling Virginia residents only one, Pennsylvania College of Optometry (36), is not located in the District of Columbia. The College of Optometry offers space to Virginia students under a contract administered by the Council of Higher Education. Institutions in the District of Columbia enrolling Virginia first professional students were Georgetown University (86), American University (47), George Washington University (47), Wesley Theological

Seminary (44), Catholic University of America (40) and Howard University (33).

V. First-Time Graduate

Virginia experienced the greatest loss in net migration among first-time graduate students. Of the 9,638 Virginia residents entering graduate programs, only 68 percent (6,574) remained in Virginia. Virginia institutions enrolled only 2,079 out-of-state students resulting in a net out-migration of first-time graduate students of -985. Virginia's graduate programs attracted the largest number of students from New York (199), North Carolina (171), Maryland (159), Pennsylvania (155) and New Jersey (124). Since most of the Commonwealth's graduate programs are located at state-supported institutions, only 8 percent (147) entered private institutions.

The majority of Virginian's leaving the state pursued their graduate studies at private institutions (68 percent). Of the top ten institutions enrolling Virginia residents, only two were public. In addition, eight of the top ten offerred courses within the borders of the Commonwealth. Golden Gate University led the list enrolling 398, followed by Catholic University of America (241), George Washington University (234) and American University (146) all located in the District of Columbia. Southeastern University (114) in the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland, College Park Campus (70), ranking fifth and eighth were the only two of the top ten not having sites in

Virginia. The remaining four [Florida Institute of Technology (95), Georgetoon University (90), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (62) and the University of Southern California (46)] also operated in Virginia. Since the data reported to the National Center for Education Statistics do not distingish between sites it is difficult to determine the location of these enrollments. Again, it is resonable to assume that most, if not all, of the enrollment reported by Golden Gate University took place in Virginia. Similarly, the enrollment of Florida Institute of Technology and the University of Southern California may have occurred in the state.

Because of the large enrollment of Golden Gate University, California was second in attracting Virginia residents with 532. The District of Columbia through a combination of sites in the District and Virginia attracted 873 students. Virginia graduate students also attended institutions in Maryland (167), Massachusetts (107) and New York (105).

VI. First-Time Unclassified

Unclassified students typically fall into two categories, (a) those wishing to enroll but not for a degree, and (b) those seeking admission to a degree program but lacking a necessary requirement of admission. The first group of students tend to enroll in an institution that is physically accessible. The second group may migrate a great distance to enroll in a college or university and may wish to establish residence to enroll as in-state students in a college or university. They may have applied too late to be considered for full-time admission, may need to complete selected prerequisites, or may wish to attend part time while establishing residency. Northern Virginia Community College and Old Dominion University enrolled the greatest number of out-of-state first-time unclassified students. With the highly mobile populations of Northern Virginia and the Tidewater Area, these institutions enroll a large number of students that are new to Virginia. Only 2,090 Virginians enrolled as first-time unclassified students in states outside of Virginia. This represents 5 percent of the 40,423 first-time unclassified Virginians. Virginia institutions enrolled more students from other states than Virginians that out-migrated -- 5,271 students entered for a net import of 3,181.

As might be expected, a majority of Virginia residents took advantage of the proximity of the District of Columbia, possibly their place of employment, to enroll in courses across the

border. This out-migration amounted to 57 percent (1,196) of all first-time unclassified out-migrants. New York (233), Maryland (141) and North Carolina (104) were the only other states to attract more than 100 Virginians. Of the large number of students attending institutions in the District of Columbia, nearly 68 percent (1,416) entered private institutions. George Washington University (601), American University (386) and Catholic University of America (145) led the list of District of Columbia institutions. The University of New York Regents External Degree Program ranked third, enrolling 214 students from Virginia. Although this program did not operate from a site in Virginia, it is reasonable to assume that a majority of the Virginia students enrolled did not migrate to New York. The External Degree Program is largely conducted through correspondence.

VII. Summary

A major concern facing higher education in the 1980's is the effect that a declining 18 year old population will have on enrollments. It is expected that between 1980 and 1985 Virginia's 18 to 21 year old population will decrease by over 52,000 (12 percent) and that the number of public high school graduates will decrease by 11,000 (16 percent). It is still not clear what effect this decline will have on enrollments, but in a state like Virginia, that has a first-time freshmen enrollment made up of 80 percent in-state students, the decline will definitely have some effect. The anticipated decline of 18 year olds in Virginia is modest compared to the expected decline in states drawing large numbers of Virginia students. Many higher education institutions in these states have already expanded their recruiting efforts in Virginia. In addition, out-of-state institutions operating in Virginia continue to enroll significant numbers of students. Several states are beginning programs to keep their high school graduates in their own institutions of higher education.

Although 1975 and 1979 residence and migration data are not comparable, the present study does indicate a reversal of Virginia's net migration. In the fall of 1979 Virginia experienced a net in-migration of new students. If this trend

continu s, higher education in Virginia can expect to maintain enrollment levels at or better than national norms. If, on the other hand, sources of students outside the state dry up, Virginia's colleges and universities will find themselves with fewer out-of-state students. It may be prudent, therefore, for Virginia to begin a program designed to reduce the number of high school graduates who leave the Commonwealth for higher education.